

Special Meeting of Thursday, March 3, 2011 (Commission Interviews)
One Twin Pines Lane, Third Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER 7:15 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Feierbach, Lieberman, Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Warden, Braunstein

Staff Present: City Clerk Cook

Interview candidates for City Commissions

Kathryn Dragun (Parks and Recreation Commission Youth) stated that she would like to learn how the Commission works. She described the various organizations for which she volunteers, including her school's Ambassador Club, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and at Sunrise Assisted Living. She noted she has applied for the National Honor Society. She is interested in trails and park development. She has the ability to render opinions and viewpoints on issues. She expressed support for the concept of a youth commissioner mentorship program. She would like to see more activities for middle school-age students such as dances, tutoring, and student volunteer programs.

Alex Bartee (Parks and Recreation Commission Youth Incumbent) described his involvement in the Davey Glen Park Subcommittee, and stated that it helped him become more comfortable with contributing at the Commission meetings. He outlined some of the ideas he provided for Davey Glen Park. He expressed a desire to remain on the Commission in order to see that project completed, and he would be interested in being involved in another project. He described the nature of subcommittee work versus work done by the full Commission.

Megan Nguyen (Planning Commission) stated that she has lived in Belmont for 14 years. She expressed her desire to be part of the planning and vision for Belmont, and wants to volunteer close to home. She noted that now that she has completed grad school she has the time to devote. She indicated that she has not attended any meetings but has watched some of the webcasts. She understands the need to weigh the pros and cons of decision-making. Quality of life is important. She stated that her experience in working with the Department of Energy makes her familiar with the regulatory aspect of decisions made by the Planning Commission. She is familiar with blueprints. She described her experience in Washington State with transporting nuclear materials. She also described group dynamics and the human aspect of making decisions. She commented that she does not want Belmont to be like other cities.

Rich Bortoli (Parks and Recreation Incumbent) stated that he enjoys the Commission's work. He noted that when he was first appointed, his focus was youth sports, and now he is more involved in senior activities and mobility issues. He commented regarding the two new parks under way. He described the new lunch program and hoped that it would bring new people to the Senior Center. He stated that the senior staff does a good job with initiating new ideas, activities

and programs. He expressed support for a youth commissioner mentoring program and for overlapping terms, as he is concerned when two new youth members are appointed at the same time. He would like to see more parks in Belmont. He described the proposed plans for Davey Glen Park and the installation of turf at the Sports Complex. He stated that trying to do something with Barrett has been discussed for many years. He is concerned with the impact on the neighbors. He noted it is a good location with many uses, and is a well-used facility.

Davina Hurt (Planning Commission) stated that she has lived in Belmont for six years and has a young child. She likes Belmont for the small town feel. She would like to keep Belmont nice for the next generation. She is a member of the High Speed Rail Ad Hoc (HSR) committee. She lives close to El Camino Real and stated that many of her neighbors have lived in Belmont for a long time. She looks forward to development in the downtown, and would like to encourage more families to locate there. She noted that new businesses should serve families, as well as those that would draw people, such as a bookstore or large farmer's market. She commented that Belmont is unique and has a hilly landscape. She expressed a desire to encourage transit and would like to take a common sense approach to development. She described her experience with the outreach underway by the HSR committee. She has watched Planning Commission meetings and commented regarding the diverse ideas that are shared. She stated that urbanization has both a positive and negative connotation, and noted that she would use the term modernization. She clarified that this would not mean high rises. She stated that more intense development on Ralston Avenue near Highway 101 might be feasible and part of a future vision.

Kerry MacDonald (Planning Commission) stated that she is new to Belmont and moved here for her family and the trees. She described her interactions with the San Francisco Planning Department. She stated that Belmont is a progressive city, and she would like to contribute based on her professional experience. She has watched the meetings on webcast. She understands the variance process and is able to read plans. She noted that some people try to circumvent the rules which results in problems. She stated that the role of the commissioners is not to advise people regarding geotechnical issues. She commented that as a newcomer, she could provide an outsider's perspective. She stated that Belmont is not urban and is unlikely to be in the future. She is not completely against high speed rail and noted that it could be part of the growth of the region, including small business growth. She expressed a desire to use Ralston Avenue to connect Carlmont with the downtown area.

Margo Cheechov (Parks and Recreation Incumbent) expressed her excitement over the two new parks being developed. She stated that she is frustrated by the design challenges for Davey Glen Park, and noted that accessibility issues were driving up costs. She described the ongoing discussions about this project, and expressed her desire that some type of destination park be built. She hoped that the new lunch program will encourage more people to go to the Senior Center. She noted that more activities were being offered there, which will make Belmont more livable and maintain its charm. There is a challenge to do as much as possible for as little money as possible. She stated that small things can go a long way. She described her experience on subcommittees over the years. She enjoys attending opening day of the Little League season, and she goes every year. She attends many City events, and says it is important to make an

appearance.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 9:10 P.M.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

Meeting Tape Recorded and Videotaped
Audio Recording 783